

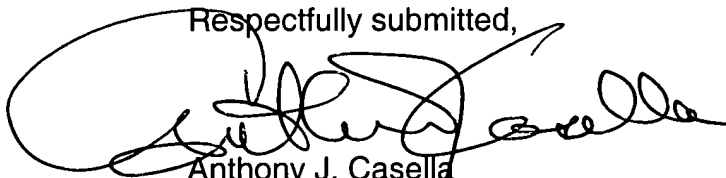
## **REMARKS**

Consideration of this preliminary amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicants, by their attorney, aver that the amendments to the specification are to clarify the specification and do not introduce any new matter. The amendments remove references in the original specification to the preambles of the independent claims.

Certain claims have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies and to conform to United States patent practice. The Examiner is urged to contact applicants' attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony J. Casella', written over a large, loopy circular flourish.

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1/14/05